

Citation for the 2018 RAS Group Achievement Award 'A' Planck Team

The 2018 Group Achievement Award is awarded to the Planck Team.

The Planck team has achieved an extraordinary level of precision in measuring the oldest light in the universe, breaking new ground in areas ranging from fundamental physics, Galactic astronomy and cosmology. By building such a powerful and sensitive space telescope to create state-of-the-art maps of the microwave sky, the Planck team has made the most precise determination of the age, composition and shape of the universe.

This also includes the most accurate test of the standard cosmological model, with an order of magnitude improvement on measurements of the microwave background fluctuations. The Planck team has provided exquisite maps of our own Galaxy at 30 GHz –1 THz, revealing new insights into cold clouds, anomalous microwave background emission, and the large-scale distribution of the different components of our interstellar medium.

Planck has been transformative precisely due its unprecedented precision. This award recognizes the large and international team of scientists and engineers who have been essential to its success.

For these reasons, the Planck team is awarded the Group Achievement Award.